## AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 4, 1998 AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 8, 1998 AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 1998

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997-98 REGULAR SESSION

## **ASSEMBLY BILL**

No. 1780

## **Introduced by Assembly Member Murray**

February 6, 1998

An act to amend Sections 15630 and 15633 of, and to add Sections 15630.5 and Section 15653.5 to, the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to elder abuse.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1780, as amended, Murray. Elder abuse: reporting requirements.

Existing law defines physical abuse for purposes of reporting elder and dependent adult abuse.

This bill would expand that definition, as specified.

Existing law requires any mandated reporter, as defined, who observes in his or her professional capacity, or within the scope of his or her employment, an instance of physical abuse against an elder or dependent adult, to report the abuse under specified circumstances. The report must be made to the local ombudsman or to a local law enforcement agency if the abuse has occurred in a long-term care facility, except as specified. Failure to make a required report is punishable as a misdemeanor.

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This bill would expand the definition of mandated reporter, as specified, would delete the specified circumstances under which the above report is required to be made, and would instead require that a report be made when the mandated reporter reasonably suspects that the elder or dependent adult has suffered physical abuse, abandonment, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect. The bill would also increase the penalty for failure to report in specified circumstances. Because this bill would expand the definition of, and penalties for, a crime, and increase the reporting duties of local officials, it would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.

This bill would provide that with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to—these the statutory provisions noted above.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 15630 of the Welfare and
- 2 Institutions Code is amended to read:

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15630. (a) Any person who has assumed full or intermittent responsibility for care or custody of an elder or dependent adult, whether or not that person receives compensation, including administrators, supervisors, and any licensed staff of a public or private facility that provides care or services for elder or dependent adults, or, any elder or dependent adult care custodian, health practitioner, or employee of a county adult protective services agency or a local law enforcement agency is a mandated reporter.

- (b) Any mandated reporter, who, in his or her professional capacity, or within the scope of his or her employment, has observed or has knowledge of an incident that reasonably appears to be physical abuse, observed a physical injury where the nature of the injury, its location on the body, or the repetition of the injury, elearly indicates that physical abuse has occurred, or that abandonment, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect has occurred, or is told by an elder or dependent adult that he or she has experienced behavior constituting physical abuse, abandonment, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect, or reasonably suspects abuse shall report the known or suspected instance of abuse by telephone immediately or as soon as practically possible, and by written report sent within two working days, as follows:
- (1) If the abuse has occurred in a long-term care facility, except a state mental health hospital or a state developmental center, the report shall be made to the local ombudsman or the local law enforcement agency. Except in an emergency, the local ombudsman shall report any case of known or suspected criminal activity to both the Department of Health Services and the Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud as soon as is practical. Except in an emergency, the local ombudsman shall also report any case of possible criminal activity or criminal neglect as soon as is practical to the Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud. Cases reported to local law enforcement shall also be reported to the Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud.
- (2) If the suspected or alleged abuse occurred in a state mental health hospital or a state developmental

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center, the report shall be made to designated investigators of the State Department of Mental Health or the State Department of Developmental Services or to the local law enforcement agency.

- (3) If the abuse has occurred any place other than one described in paragraph (1), the report shall be made to the adult protective services agency or the local law enforcement agency.
- (c) (1) Any mandated reporter who has knowledge of, or reasonably suspects that, types of elder or dependent adult abuse for which reports are not mandated have been inflicted upon an elder or dependent adult or that his or her emotional well-being is endangered in any other way, may report the known or suspected instance of abuse.
- (2) If the suspected or alleged abuse occurred in a long-term care facility other than a state mental health hospital or a state developmental center, the report may be made to the long-term care ombudsman program.
- (3) If the suspected or alleged abuse occurred in a state mental health hospital or a state developmental center, the report may be made to the designated investigator of the State Department of Mental Health or the State Department of Developmental Services, or to a local law enforcement agency or to the local ombudsman.
- (4) If the suspected or alleged abuse occurred anywhere else, the report may be made to the county adult protective services agency.
- (5) If the conduct involves criminal activity not covered in subdivision (b), it may be immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- (d) When two or more mandated reporters are present and jointly have knowledge or reasonably suspect that types of abuse of an elder or a dependent adult for 36 which a report is or is not mandated have occurred, and when there is agreement among them, the telephone report may be made by a member of the team selected by mutual agreement, and a single report may be made and signed by the selected member of the reporting

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team. Any member who has knowledge that the member designated to report has failed to do so shall thereafter make the report.

- (e) A telephone report of a known or suspected instance of elder or dependent adult abuse shall include the name of the person making the report, the name and age of the elder or dependent adult, the present location of the elder or dependent adult, the names and addresses of family members or any other person responsible for the elder or dependent adult's care, if known, the nature and extent of the elder or dependent adult's condition, the date of the incident, and any other information, including information that led that person to suspect elder or dependent adult abuse requested by the agency receiving the report.
- (f) The reporting duties under this section are individual, and no supervisor or administrator shall impede or inhibit the reporting duties, and no person making the report shall be subject to any sanction for making the report. However, internal procedures to facilitate reporting, ensure confidentiality, and apprise supervisors and administrators of reports may be established, provided they are not inconsistent with this chapter.
- (g) (1) Whenever this section requires a county adult protective services agency to report to a law enforcement agency, the law enforcement agency shall, immediately upon request, provide a copy of its investigative report concerning the reported matter to that county adult protective services agency.
- (2) Whenever this section requires a law enforcement agency to report to a county adult protective services agency, the county adult protective services agency shall, immediately upon request, provide a copy of its investigative report concerning the reported matter to that law enforcement agency.
- (3) The requirement to disclose investigative reports pursuant to this subdivision shall not include the disclosure of social services records or case files that are confidential, nor shall this subdivision be construed to

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1 allow disclosure of any reports or records if the disclosure 2 would be prohibited by any other provision of state or 3 federal law.

- (h) Failure to report physical abuse, abandonment, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect of an elder or dependent adult, in violation of this section, is a misdemeanor, punishable by not more than six months in a county jail or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment. Any mandated reporter who willfully fails to report physical abuse, abandonment, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect of an elder or dependent adult, in violation of this section, where that abuse results in death or great bodily injury, is punishable by not more than one year in a county jail or by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or by both that fine and imprisonment.
- SEC. 2. Section 15630.5 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:
- 15630.5. (a) A mandated reporter shall not be required to report, as a suspected incident of abuse, as defined by Section 15610.07, an incident where all of the following conditions exist:
- (1) The mandated reporter has been told by an elder or dependent adult that he or she has experienced behavior constituting physical abuse, abandonment, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect.
- (2) The mandated reporter is not aware of any independent evidence that corroborates the statement that the abuse has occurred.
- (3) The elder or dependent adult has been diagnosed with a mental illness, defect, dementia, or incapacity, or is the subject of a court-ordered conservatorship because of mental illness, defect, or incapacity.
- (4) The mandated reporter reasonably believes that the abuse did not occur.
- (b) In a long-term care facility, a mandated reporter shall not be required to report as a suspected incident of abuse as defined by Section 15610.07, an incident where all of the following conditions exist:

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(1) The mandated reporter is aware that there is a proper plan of care.

- (2) The mandated reporter is aware that the plan of care was properly provided or executed.
- (3) A physical, mental, or medical injury occurred as a result of care provided pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2).
- (4) The mandated reporter reasonably believes that the injury was not the result of abuse.
- (e) This subdivision is not intended to require or to preclude a mandated reporter from seeking information regarding a known or suspected incident of abuse prior to reporting. This subdivision applies only to those 14 categories of mandated reporters that are determined by 15 the Department of Health Services, upon approval by the 16 bureau and the state long-term care ombudsman, as having access to plans of care and the training and experience necessary to ascertain whether the conditions specified in this section have been met.

SEC. 3.

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- SECTION 1. Section 15630 ofWelfare the and Institutions Code is amended to read:
- 15630. (a) Any person who has assumed full or 24 intermittent responsibility for care or custody of an elder or dependent adult, whether or not that person receives compensation, including administrators, supervisors, and any licensed staff of a public or private facility that provides care or services for elder or dependent adults, or any elder or dependent adult care custodian, health practitioner, or employee of a county adult protective services agency or a local law enforcement agency is a mandated reporter.
- (b) (1) Any mandated reporter, who, in his or her 34 professional capacity, or within the scope of his or her 35 employment, has observed or has knowledge of an 36 incident that reasonably appears to be physical abuse, 37 observed a physical injury where the nature of the injury, 38 its location on the body, or the repetition of the injury elearly indicates that physical abuse has occurred abandonment, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect, or is

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told by an elder or dependent adult that he or she has experienced behavior constituting physical 3 abandonment, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect, or reasonably suspects abuse shall report the known or suspected instance of abuse by telephone immediately or as soon as practically possible, and by written report sent within two working days, as follows:

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- (A) If the abuse has occurred in a long-term care 10 facility, except a state mental health hospital or a state developmental center, the report shall be made to the local ombudsman or the local law enforcement agency.
- (2) Except in an emergency, the local ombudsman 14 and the local law enforcement agency shall report any of known or suspected abuse to the State 15 case 16 Department of Health Services and any case of known or suspected criminal activity to the Bureau of Medi-Cal 18 Fraud, as soon as is practical.
- (B) If the suspected or alleged abuse occurred in a 20 state mental health hospital or a state developmental shall be made center. the report to designated 22 investigators of the State Department of Mental Health or the State Department of Developmental Services or to the local law enforcement agency.
- local (3)-Except in an emergency, the law enforcement agency shall report any case of known or suspected criminal activity to the Bureau of Medi-Cal 28 Fraud, as soon as is practical.
  - (C) If the abuse has occurred any place other than one described in paragraph (1) subparagraph (A), the report shall be made to the adult protective services agency or the local law enforcement agency.
- (2) (A) A mandated reporter shall not be required to 34 report, as a suspected incident of abuse, as defined in Section 15610.07, an incident where all of the following 36 *conditions exist:*
- (i) The mandated reporter has been told by an elder 38 or dependent adult that he or she has experienced 39 behavior constituting physical abuse, abandonment, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect.

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(ii) The mandated reporter is not aware of any independent evidence that corroborates the statement that the abuse has occurred.

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- (iii) The elder or dependent adult has been diagnosed 5 with a mental illness, defect, dementia, or incapacity, or 6 is the subject of a court-ordered conservatorship because of a mental illness, defect, dementia, or incapacity.
  - (iv) The mandated reporter reasonably believes that the abuse did not occur.
- (B) This paragraph shall not be construed to impose upon mandated reporters a duty to investigate a known or suspected incident of abuse and shall not be construed to lessen or restrict any existing duty of mandated 14 reporters.
- (3) (A) In a long-term care facility, a mandated 16 reporter shall not be required to report as a suspected incident of abuse, as defined in Section 15610.07, an incident where all of the following conditions exist:
- (i) The mandated reporter is aware that there is a 20 proper plan of care.
  - (ii) The mandated reporter is aware that the plan of care was properly provided or executed.
  - (iii) A physical, mental, or medical injury occurred as a result of care provided pursuant to clause (i) or (ii).
  - (iv) The mandated reporter reasonably believes that the injury was not the result of abuse.
- (B) This paragraph shall not be construed to require 28 a mandated reporter to seek, nor to preclude a mandated reporter from seeking, information regarding a known or 30 suspected incident of abuse prior to reporting. 31 paragraph shall apply only to those categories 32 mandated reporters that the State Department of Health Services determines, upon approval by the Bureau of and thestate long-term 34 Medi-Cal Fraud 35 ombudsman, have access to plans of care and have the 36 training and experience necessary to determine whether the conditions specified in this section have been met. 37
- 38 (c) (1) Any mandated reporter who has knowledge of, or reasonably suspects that, types of elder dependent adult abuse for which reports

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have been inflicted upon mandated an elder dependent adult or that his or her emotional well-being is endangered in any other way, may report the known or suspected instance of abuse.

- (2) If the suspected or alleged abuse occurred in a 6 long-term care facility other than a state mental health hospital or a state developmental center, the report may be made to the long-term care ombudsman program. 9 Except in an emergency, the local ombusdman shall
- 10 report any case of known or suspected abuse to the State 11 Department of Health Services and any case of known or 12 suspected criminal activity to the Bureau of Medi-Cal 13 Fraud, as soon as is practical.
- (3) If the suspected or alleged abuse occurred in a 15 state mental health hospital or a state developmental 16 center, the report may be made to the designated investigator of the State Department of Mental Health or 18 the State Department of Developmental Services, or to local law enforcement agency or to the 20 ombudsman. Except in an emergency, ombusdman and the local law enforcement agency shall 22 report any case of known or suspected criminal activity 23 to the Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud, as soon as is practical.
- (4) If the suspected or alleged abuse 25 anywhere else in a place other than a place described in 26 paragraph (2) or (3), the report may be made to the county adult protective services agency.
- (5) If the conduct involves criminal activity 29 covered in subdivision (b), it may be immediately 30 reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- (d) When two or more mandated reporters 32 present and jointly have knowledge or reasonably suspect that types of abuse of an elder or a dependent adult for 34 which a report is or is not mandated have occurred, and 35 when there is agreement among them, the telephone 36 report may be made by a member of the team selected by mutual agreement, and a single report may be made 38 and signed by the selected member of the reporting team. Any member who has knowledge that the member

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designated to report has failed to do so shall thereafter 2 make the report. 3

(e) A telephone report of a known or suspected instance of elder or dependent adult abuse shall include the name of the person making the report, the name and age of the elder or dependent adult, the present location of the elder or dependent adult, the names and addresses of family members or any other person responsible for the elder or dependent adult's care, if known, the nature and 10 extent of the elder or dependent adult's condition, the date of the incident, and any other information, including information that led that person to suspect elder or dependent adult abuse, requested by the agency 14 receiving the report.

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- (f) The duties reporting under this section are 16 individual, administrator and no supervisor or impede or inhibit the reporting duties, and no person 18 making the report shall be subject to any sanction for making the report. However, internal procedures facilitate reporting, ensure confidentiality, supervisors and administrators of reports established, provided they are not inconsistent with this chapter.
- (g) (1) Whenever this section requires a county adult 25 protective services agency to report to a law enforcement agency, the law enforcement agency shall, immediately upon request, provide a copy of its investigative report concerning the reported matter to that county adult protective services agency.
  - (2) Whenever this section requires a law enforcement agency to report to a county adult protective services agency, the county adult protective services agency shall, immediately upon request, provide a copy of investigative report concerning the reported matter to that law enforcement agency.
- (3) The requirement to disclose investigative reports subdivision 37 pursuant to this shall not include the 38 disclosure of social services records or case files that are confidential, nor shall this subdivision be construed to allow disclosure of any reports or records if the disclosure

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would be prohibited by any other provision of state or federal law.

- (h) Failure to report physical abuse, abandonment, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect of an elder or 5 dependent adult, in violation of this section, is a misdemeanor, punishable by not more that six months in the county jail or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment. 9 Any mandated reporter who willfully fails to report 10 physical abuse, abandonment, isolation, financial abuse, 11 or neglect of an elder or dependent adult, in violation of 12 this section, where that abuse results in death or great 13 bodily injury, is punishable by not more than one year in 14 a county jail or by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or by both that fine and imprisonment. 15
  - SEC. 2. Section 15633 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:
  - 15633. (a) The reports made pursuant to Sections 15630 and 15631 shall be confidential and may be disclosed only as provided in subdivision (b). Any violation of the confidentiality required by this chapter is a misdemeanor punishable by not more than six months in the county jail, by a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500), or by both that fine and imprisonment.
  - (b) Reports of suspected elder or dependent adult information contained therein abuse and may disclosed only to the following:
  - (1) Persons or agencies described in subdivision (a) and (b) of to whom disclosure of information or the identity of the reporting party is permitted under Section 15633.5.
  - (2) (A) Persons who are trained and qualified to serve on multidisciplinary personnel teams may disclose to one another information and records that are relevant to the prevention. identification, or treatment of abuse elderly or dependent persons.
- (B) Except as provided in subparagraph (A), 38 personnel of the multidisciplinary team or agency that receives information pursuant to this chapter, shall be under the same obligations and subject to the same

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confidentiality penalties as the person disclosing providing that information. The information obtained 3 shall be maintained in a manner that ensures the maximum protection of privacy and confidentiality 5 rights.

(c) This section shall not be construed to allow disclosure of any reports or records relevant to the reports of elder or dependent adult abuse if the disclosure would be prohibited by any other provisions of state or federal law applicable to the reports or records relevant to the 10 reports of the abuse.

SEC. 4.

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SEC. 3. Section 15653.5 is added to the Welfare and 14 Institutions Code, to read:

15653.5. Specific training for determining when to 16 refer for potential criminal action a report of a known or suspected instance of abuse that occurred in a long-term care facility

15653.5. Training for determining when to refer a 20 report of a known or suspected instance of abuse that occurred in a long-term care facility for potential criminal action shall be included in the training provided by the 23 Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 12528 of the Government Code.

SEC. 5.

SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act 27 pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California 28 Constitution for certain costs that may be incurred by a 29 local agency or school district because in that regard this 30 act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or 32 infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime 34 within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the 35 California Constitution.

notwithstanding Section 36 However, 17610 of 37 Government Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains other costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7

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1 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title
2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the
3 claim for reimbursement does not exceed one million
4 dollars (\$1,000,000), reimbursement shall be made from
5 the State Mandates Claims Fund.
6 Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government
7 Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act
8 shall become operative on the same date that the act
9 takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

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CORRECTIONS

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